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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/543,126	07/22/2005	Erik Hartmann	05096	2624
23338	7590	11/07/2008	EXAMINER	
DENNISON, SCHULTZ & MACDONALD			WALTERS, JOHN DANIEL	
1727 KING STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 105			3618	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/07/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/543,126	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HARTMANN, ERIK
	<b>Examiner</b> JOHN D. WALTERS	<b>Art Unit</b> 3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 17-25, 29 and 30 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 26-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 31 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 July 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 17 - 31 have been examined. Claims 1 - 16 have been canceled by Applicant.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 26 - 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borneuf (FR 2,792,213) in view of Buchmuller (3,178,194). Borneuf discloses a ski comprising:

- a kick enhancing band mounted to a ski (Fig.3, item 5);
- said band being attachable to a ski sole (Fig. 5);
- said band including a flat side with a skin (Fig. 3, item 11);
- said band including a retaining piece designed for cooperation with a fixing device (Fig.3, items 14 and 1);
- said fixing device including a fixing plate on the underside of a ski (Fig. 3, item 22);
- said retaining piece being at least partially placed in a recessed portion of an underside of said ski and held in place with said fixing plate (Fig. 4);

- said retaining piece includes at least one bolt for engagement within a fixing hole (Fig. 5, item 25).

Borneuf does not disclose the use of an adhesive. Buchmuller, however, discloses a training ski comprising:

- a skin attached to a bottom of a ski via adhesive (column 2, lines 30 - 35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to combine the adhesive of Buchmuller with the ski of Borneuf in order to provide a more secure attachment of a skin to a ski. This would improve user safety by reducing the possibility of said skin inadvertently detaching from said ski during use.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 17 - 25, 29 and 30 are allowed.

Claim 31 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Osborn (1,989,377) discloses a ski creeper;

- Matthee et al. (2,189,760) disclose a fitting for fixing skins to skis;
- Buchmuller (3,178,194) discloses a training ski;
- Case (4,564,210) discloses a cross-country ski;
- Matthews (4,666,178) discloses a ski climber;
- Bejean et al. (5,221,104) disclose a device for preventing backward slippage of a cross-country ski;
- Sunterland (6,105,990) discloses a system for mounting climbing fabric to a ski;
- Ayliffe (6,471,234) discloses an apparatus for affixing climbing skins to skis;
- Gousie (6,659,492) discloses a ski for uphill and downhill skiing;
- Long (6,837,512) discloses an apparatus for improving human mobility on snow surfaces;
- Dieupart (FR 2,234,909) discloses a ski;
- Schmid (DE 3,318,259) discloses a ski.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN D. WALTERS whose telephone number is (571)272-8269. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on (571) 272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher P Ellis/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3618

John D. Walters  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3618

/J. D. W./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3618